



A happy John Delaney proudly shows his Berks and Bucks Senior Cup winners plaque after Monday's 1-0 victory over Slough Town.

AT LAST, JOHN!

RUMOURS that the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup was standing proudly on John Delaney's mantelpiece at his Slough home, were strongly denied by the Wycombe Wanderers centre half this week. Nevertheless one new addition to his trophy list is a Senior Cup winners medal — something that has eluded John for many years (writes Stuart Earp).

His record in County competitions make sorry reading — until last Monday that is. It all started when John was 22 playing for Maidenhead Social in the Berks and Bucks Junior Cup final. They lost 3-2 to Horlicks at Maidenhead. The following year John moved up into intermediate football but also lost when playing for Coopers Sports against Rabson Rovers. They lost 1-0 in the final.

At 24, John entered senior amateur football with Slough Town and must have been hoping for a change of fortune against Chesham in his first Berks and Bucks Senior Cup final at Wycombe. But it was not to be, Chesham running out 4-2 winners.

Next year the Rebels reached the final again and faced Wycombe Wanderers in the final at Chesham. Tony Horseman denied him the winners medal this time by notching the winning goal 3-2.

John moved to Wycombe soon after that defeat and with Wanderers winning the Isthmian League title, he must have been confident for a Senior Cup winners memento when he lined up against his former teammates. Again it was not to be, Slough winning 1-0 after a replay.

Retaining the Isthmian championship the following year, the Blues again faced Slough in the Allied Counties final but again it brought no joy for Delaney — as Wycombe went down 3-0 at Maidenhead.

Whereas many would have given up by this time, John turned out again last Monday — again against Slough Town. And when that final whistle went at Chesham, there could have been no doubt who was the happiest man on the field. No wonder that winners medal takes pride of place at John's home!